

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400
San Francisco, CA 94102

Contact: Victoria B. Henley
Director-Chief Counsel
(415) 557-1200

FOR RELEASE
April 1, 2009

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE RELEASES 2008 ANNUAL REPORT AND
ANNOUNCES THE ELECTION OF JUSTICE JUDITH D. McCONNELL AS
CHAIRPERSON AND JUDGE KATHERINE FEINSTEIN AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Commission on Judicial Performance has released its 2008 Annual Report, which details the Commission's activities and statistics from that year. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs and to encourage the use of the Commission's Web site, the full Annual Report is available on the Web site at <http://www.cjp.ca.gov>.

The Commission announces the election of Justice Judith D. McConnell as Chairperson of the Commission and Judge Katherine Feinstein as Vice-Chairperson, at its meeting on March 18, 2009.

Justice Judith D. McConnell has served as the Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District since 2003, and as Associate Justice from 2001 to 2003. From 1978 to 1980 she was a judge of the San Diego Municipal Court, and from 1980 to 2001 she was a judge of the San Diego Superior Court where she served two terms as presiding judge. Prior to her appointment to the bench she was in private law practice in San Diego. She also worked for the California Department of Transportation. Justice McConnell received her law degree from the University of California, Boalt Hall School of Law, in 1969 and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, Phi Beta Kappa. She served as a member and vice-chair of the Judicial Council Task Force on Jury System Improvement from 1998 to 2003, and as chair of the Task Force on Judicial Ethics Issues from 2003 to 2004. In 1999, she was the first recipient of the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award presented by the State Bar of California, and in 2000 was named Jurist of the Year by the California Judicial Council. Justice McConnell was appointed to the Commission in March 2005 and served as Vice-Chairperson since March 2007.

Judge Katherine Feinstein has served on the San Francisco Superior Court since 2000. Prior to being assigned to civil jury trials in 2006, she served as the supervising judge of the Unified Family Court and presided over juvenile dependency, delinquency, family law, and domestic violence matters. Before becoming a judge, she served as a deputy district attorney and a deputy city attorney. She was also director of the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice and a member of the San Francisco Police Commission. Judge Feinstein is a 1984 graduate of Hastings College of the Law and a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of California, Berkeley. Judge Feinstein was appointed to the Commission in March 2007.

The Commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The Chairperson is the Hon. Judith D. McConnell of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, in San Diego, California.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the Commission's Web site at www.cjp.ca.gov.